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2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

Rocio Friedman - Precinct 3

January 1, 2026 . 3:00 AM — 2 min read

Preferred contact method:
rositapinzon21@gmail.com

What experiences and perspectives would you contribute to Town Meeting?
As an engineer by training, I bring analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a commitment to data-driven decision-making. My professional experience includes working at Johns Hopkins, where I served as a medical interpreter and later as a manager helping patients and families navigate complex healthcare systems. In that role, I learned how policy decisions directly affect real people, and how clarity, transparency, and effective communication are essential to good governance.

I value inclusive institutions that serve all members of a community. My experience bridging language and cultural gaps has shaped my belief that public systems work best when they are accessible, responsive, and thoughtful.

As a mother of a six-year-old in Winchester, I care deeply about e
and the long-term vitality of our schools. I believe strong public education,

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fiscal responsibility, and careful planning are essential to maintaining the character and quality of life that make Winchester such a special place to live.

I would bring a collaborative mindset, careful listening, and a practical approach to decision-making to Town Meeting.

What are two or three issues facing Winchester that you think are most important and what are your positions on them?

One of the most important issues facing Winchester is maintaining the strength and excellence of our public schools. I strongly believe in evidence-based, scientifically grounded curricula that prepare students not only for academic success but for a rapidly changing world. In addition, I believe every child in Winchester should have access to truly world-class language education that ensures early literacy as well as the highest quality math and STEM instruction. Early and sustained language training strengthens cognitive development, cultural understanding, and global readiness, and it is an investment in our children's future.

A second important issue is housing. I recognize the need to expand opportunities for lower-income and diverse families to live in Winchester, and I support thoughtful approaches to increasing affordability. At the same time, housing policy is complex and must be carefully reviewed to ensure that growth is well planned, fiscally responsible, and consistent with preserving the character, infrastructure capacity, and environmental sustainability of our town. We should pursue solutions that balance inclusion with long-term planning.

Finally, fiscal responsibility and long-range planning remain central to sustaining the quality of life Winchester residents expect. Decisions about development, schools, and services must be grounded in data, transparency, and a clear understanding of long-term impacts.

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I believe careful analysis, open dialogue, and collaborative decision-making are essential as we navigate these issues together.

What is a special challenge in your precinct that might not be faced in other precincts?

Precinct 3 includes a large residential area anchored by families near our schools and historic neighborhoods. One challenge that stands out is managing neighborhood traffic and pedestrian safety near McCall Middle School. I believe we should work collaboratively with residents and the town's transportation planners to find balanced solutions that keep our streets safe and our community vibrant.

Why should voters elect you to represent them?

I would be honored to represent Precinct 3 because I bring a combination of analytical training, real-world management experience, and deep personal investment in our community. I also am a committed parent who wants to actively help our schools perform at the highest level possible.

I am committed to listening carefully, asking good questions, and working collaboratively to support policies that strengthen our schools, preserve the character of our neighborhoods, and sustain the long-term vitality of Winchester.

–

Return to Town Meeting Candidate list.

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He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

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2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

13 YEARS OF DATA, ONE SATURDAY: Takeaways from Winchester's override vote and the races that surrounded it

Winchester News reviewed precinct-level election results from every annual town election since 2014 — 13 years of data covering turnout, ballot questions, Select Board races, School Committee contests and Planning Board results — and compared them against the March 21 preliminary numbers. The 2026 results have not yet been certified by Town

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NEWS

With override rejected, Winchester shifts from campaigning to budget planning

NEWS

Voters fill Town Meet across Winchester; f incumbents unseated

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After Winchester voters rejected an $11.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override on Election Day, March 21, the governing question in town has shifted from persuasion to arithmetic. Select Board member Bill McGonigle, who served on the Yes for Winchester campaign, said the defeat has changed how he approaches

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The biggest shakeup came in Precinct 7, where two officeholders lost in an 11-person contest, matching Precinct 4 for the busiest race.

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NEWS

Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

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He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

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EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

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